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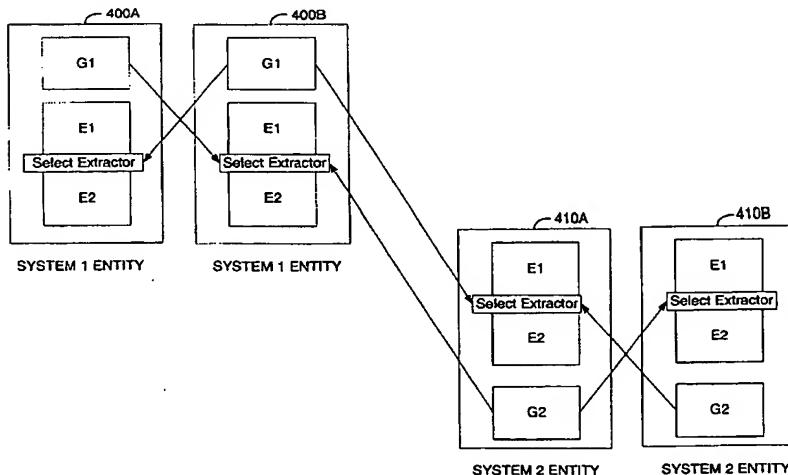
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TANDEM-FREE VOCODER OPERATION BETWEEN NON-COMPATIBLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS BY EXTRACTING INTER- OR INTRASYSTEM TFO-INFORMATION



(57) Abstract: Tandem-free vocoder operations (TFO) between non-compatible communication systems may be enabled through hardware modifications at communication elements within each system. In one aspect, each infrastructure entity in System 1 comprises an intra-system TFO Frame Generator (G1), an intra-system TFO Frame Extractor (E1) and a TFO Frame Extractor (E2) of System 2, which is non-compatible to System 1. Each infrastructure entity in System 2 comprises an intra-system TFO Frame Generator (G2), an intra-system TFO Frame Extractor (E2) and a TFO Frame Extractor (E1) of System 1. In an embodiment, intersystem TFO Frame Generators (G1, G2) are also provided. In another embodiment, intersystem or intrasystem parameters are used to determine the TFO Frame Content (820, 830), responsive to determining the source type of the TFO frame being punctured into a PCM stream (812).

**WO 2004/040927 A3**



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